



September 2021

&

October 2021

ST. MARGARET'S

ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

47 Jordan Road New Hartford, NY 13413

All are Welcome!!

Individuals and groups are welcome to contact us about using our space for day and overnight retreats. Wednesday communion services will continue at noon followed by lunch. We will be hosting in-person monthly dinners in September and October and we will continue to have take-out dinners available as well.

Special Events – Details Inside

Concert and Dessert Social with Sherry Anne & Donna Mucks

September 7th

New Six-Session Tuesday Evening Study Group

September 21st

Quiet Day with Franciscan Spirituality

September 30th

New Grief Support Group – to meet monthly

October 12th

Blessing of the Animals and Pet Food/Toiletries Drive

October 4th

Putting Our Spirituality Into Action:

A Transformative Retreat Weekend

Oct. 22nd-24th

Covid-19 & social distancing practices are being updated as appropriate. We continue, as always, to keep everyone's health and safety in mind.

Phone: 315-724-2324 Email: info@stmargarets houseny.org

Book Nook with Librarian Diane

“WOMAN STRENGTH”

Joan Chittister, OSB

In this book the author continues to speak out on the challenge facing today's Church, and includes 16 new essays on women's role in the Church, social ministry, justice, peace, spirituality, and activism. We must remember size is no measure of the vibrancy of the ministry. Religious life is called to be a leaven in the world, not a labor force.

“THE CALL TO WHOLENESS”

Kenneth L. Bakken

The author says, “this book has been written from a deep conviction that most Christians today have lost their way in life.” Too many people, in modern times, feel the Church has failed to bring “good tidings to the afflicted” (Is. 61:1). We have forgotten or lost the meaning of LIVING the “good news.” This book is meant both to nurture and challenge those who believe that wholeness flows from a deep, Christ-centered, spiritual commitment.

Librarian Diane: There is a hunger for true health and yearning for the life-giving, healing power of the Gospel. **Peace—Joy—Health**



St. Margaret's Day

July 20th, 2021

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this year's St. Margaret's Day—and know that we had those unable to attend in our hearts. *Pictured left, from left to right : Sr. Kristina Frances, Mother Superior, Society of Saint Margaret; Judith Reilly, Executive Director, St. Margaret's Corp.; The Rev. Sr. Promise, Society of Saint Margaret; and Cheryl Logan, President of the Board of Trustees, St.*

Summer Jam Concert and Dessert Social with Sherry Anne and Donna Mucks

Tuesday, September 7th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Bring the family to St. Margaret's House for a Summer Jam Concert and Dessert Social with Billboard-charting singer-songwriter Sherry Anne and regionally-acclaimed singer-songwriter Donna Mucks. Admission is free; a benefit offering will be invited to support the ministries of St. Margaret's and Emmaus Houses. St. Margaret's provides a beautiful setting for this event—bring a lawn chair. The event will be held indoors if it rains.

Quiet Day with Franciscan Spirituality

Thursday, September 30th from 9:00am to 3:30pm

Spend a Quiet Day with Saint Francis, who many call the person closest to Jesus. You may see him in gardens, near birdbaths. He is also the one who blessed animals, gave us nativity scenes and went on Crusade to seek peace, not war. Come and experience a taste of Franciscan joy and spirituality with two Third Order Episcopal Franciscans Lynn Herne and Marcia Shaw. Both have lived Franciscan Rules for decades - simple lives of love, humility and joy. Treat yourself with a day of St. Francis of Assisi. Lunch provided. \$15 suggested donation.



St. Margaret's Chapel

Blessing of the Animals

Monday, October 4th at 5:30pm

Please join us at St. Margaret's House to have your pets, or a picture of your pets, blessed in a show of appreciation and thanks giving for the bond of people and animals. We will also welcome donations of pet food and human toiletries for the animal shelters and needy in our community. *Pets must be leashed or in a pet carrier.*

Putting Our Spirituality Into Action:

A Transformative Weekend Retreat

Friday, October 22nd at 3pm – Sunday, October 24th at 3pm

Our retreat will offer an introduction to Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker Movement, and the legacy of the Sisters of St. Margaret. We will also explore how they all intersect, their relevancy for today's world, and our obligation to take action.

Dorothy Day's spirituality provides a contemporary model of integrating faith into action. She advocated: solidarity with and service to God's poor; promoting and being willing to suffer for justice; acting personally by engaging both the heart and mind with other people; and, action flowing from being rooted in Scripture, sacrament, prayer, and meditation.

The purpose of the retreat is to be transformative, and to help participants integrate their faith with action. We hope that during its course, retreatants will be supported not only in the growth of their faith, but also in discerning their own personal call to action. This will result in each person creating an action plan for the subsequent three months, following the model developed by Dorothy Day and her colleague Peter Maurin in their work with the Catholic Worker movement, a movement which continues to operate to this day.

We plan to offer this model to our retreatants and to have a resident of one of the Syracuse Catholic Worker houses with us as a resource and consultant. Visits to three community non-profits steeped in the charitable works of social justice/action will take place on Saturday.

Built into the program design are two follow-up sessions (December 8th and January 26th, both Saturday Evening Sessions—time to be determined) to serve as check-in times; assist participants in action plan roll-out; problem solve; and give guidance and feedback.

Registration is limited, but the impact of this event will be unparalleled—Register early!

Cost to register is \$150/person and includes all programming, food, and lodging.

Limited number of scholarships available—do not let finances deter you from attending.

September & October 2021

On-Going Weekly Activities

—Worship Services Wednesdays @ Noon—

Zoom and In-Person Worship Services—All Welcome!

—Wednesday Lunches @ 12:30 PM—

Suggested donation \$10 per person

On-Going Monthly Activities

—Friends of Emmaus House Meetings—

September 8th and October 13th—Second Wednesdays at 10:00 AM @ SMH
New friends are always welcome to join the group! Call for more information.

—Conversations with Rev. Gillett—

September 8th and October 13th—Second Wednesdays at 1:30 PM
Group Discussion about Matters of Faith

—Evening Prayer Service with Rev. Gillett—

September 15th and October 20th—Third Wednesdays at 5:00 PM
The prayer service will continue each month, prior to our monthly dinner.

—SMH Monthly Dinners —

September 15th and October 20th—Third Wednesdays—Menus on Back Page
Limited seating for in-person dining—Please call or email ahead
Suggested donation \$15 per person

*** Take Out time will be 5pm & Dine In time will begin at 5:30pm ***

Online Calendar of Events: <https://www.stmargaretshouseny.org/events>

FROM DRY BONES TO NEW LIFE

Sometimes the prophet Ezekiel's account of the valley of the dry bones can sound uncomfortably like a drought-like time in our own spiritual growth. There can be periods in our relationship with God when God seems absent, or at least elusive; when praying feels like drudgery, and when the spiritual gifts that usually give us joy feel as if they have gone flat. Our natural reaction is to question ourselves and to wonder what we are doing wrong.

It is comforting to learn that even the saints have experienced these dry times and that they are a normal part of spiritual growth. It is helpful to remember that God is always with us, whether or not we can feel God's presence.

Thomas Merton was an eminent Trappist monk, an author of great spiritual books, a correspondent with the major thinkers and leaders of his day, and very much involved in the ecumenical movement until his death. And yet he wrote the following prayer:

I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

This is a prayer to hang onto when the going gets rough.

I also find a prayer by Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary General in the 1950's, and also the author of a spiritual journal called *Markings*, a good reminder:

*Author of the world's joy
Bearer of the world's pain;
at the heart of all our distress
let unconquerable gladness dwell.
To see you is the end and the beginning.
You carry me and you go before.
You are the journey and the journey's end.*

Let God carry you through your dry time, remembering the outcome of the story of the dry

bones. Trust God always, as Thomas Merton says. Ezekiel prophesies to the dry bones as God instructs him. They become clothed with living flesh and become breathing, animated people.

This happens with our spirits. When we emerge from our dry time -- and we do -- we will find that this seemingly unproductive episode in our relationship with God has actually been a time of unconscious growth, leading us into new blessings and spiritual vitality.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our weekly Wednesday Eucharists at noon will continue through the Fall and, God willing, into the end of the year. Everyone is welcome to come as you are and to stay for a delicious lunch and cheerful fellowship. For everyone's safety, we continue to stay abreast of pandemic precautions as they apply to our area.

Our Second Wednesday Conversations also will be continuing. Recently we have been focusing upon prayer and all the many different ways that there are to pray. These take place right after lunch, from 1:30 - 2:30PM, and we try to begin and end on time. Each Conversation is different, so please do come and join in, even if you may have missed previous discussions.

With best wishes for a healthy and growthful Fall, Elizabeth+
(the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain)



The Rev. Sr. Promise, SSM, and Sr. Kristina Frances, Mother Superior, SSM

Worship Services Zoom Link Wednesdays at 12:00 PM

Online Access

www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 897 6691 5653

Passcode: SMH

Dial-In Access

+1-646-876-9923 US (NY)

Passcode: 752403

***New* Six-Session Tuesday Evening Study Group**

Deacon Barbara Groves will be facilitating a group on Mother Theresa and her “thoughts, stories, and prayers.” The group will be using a book titled, “In the Heart of the World,” which has been attributed to Mother Theresa. The group will begin Tuesday, September 21st at 6:30pm and continue for six weeks, meeting Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

***New* Grief Support Group – Starting in October**

St. Margaret’s will be hosting a facilitated group to support anyone experiencing loss. The group will meet monthly on second Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8pm, starting Oct. 12th.

Boilermaker Weekend Stays – October 8th to 10th

We have availability at St. Margaret’s House for guests who are coming into town for the Boilermaker. Recommended donation \$150 per room for Friday evening-Sunday morning.

What’s Cooking with Irene – Dinners at SMH

Wednesday, September 15th

Pot Roast—Veggies—Baked Potato—Salad—Dessert

Wednesday, October 20th

Shepherd’s Pie—Bread—Salad—Dessert

*****For these and all other events, please call or email St. Margaret’s House to register*****

Like us on Facebook!

